

Print This Form...

Clear Form

Date/Time Stamp:

EMPLOYEE PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved. This form **must** be typed and is available as a fillable PDF on the Committee's website at ethics.senate.gov. Retain a copy of your entire pre-travel submission for your required post-travel disclosure.

Name of Traveler: Kristin WalkerEmploying Office/Committee: Office of Senator Cynthia LummisPrivate Sponsor(s) (list all): Senate Working GroupTravel date(s): March 24-26, 2022

*Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.*

Destination(s): The Greenbrier, 101 W Main St, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

As chief of staff for Senator Lummis the educational training program at the symposium will provide access to vital resources and information not provided for in the Senate that is beneficial for fulfilling my official duties

Name of accompanying family member (if any): _____

Relationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge:

1/26/22
(Date)

Kristin P. Walker
(Signature of Employee)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING SENATOR/OFFICER (President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain):

I, Senator Cynthia Lummis hereby authorize Kristin Walker
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name) (Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate. (signify "yes" by checking box) ☐

3/24/22
(Date)

Cynthia M. Lummis
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

(Revised 10/19/15)

Form RE-1

Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp:

Post-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the **Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building.**

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I make the following disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me. I also certify that I have attached:

- ☒ The **original** *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* (Form RE-1), **AND**
☒ A **copy** of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form* with all attachments (itinerary, invitee list, etc.)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): Senate Working Group, Inc (SWG)

Travel date(s): March 24- March 26th, 2022

Name of accompanying family member (if any): NA

Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

IF THE COST OF LODGING **DID NOT INCREASE** DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Expenses for Employee:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate	\$275	\$192	\$147	Facility Rental \$227
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount				

Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable):

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate				
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount				

Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. See Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6). (Attach additional pages if necessary.): See Attached Itinerary

4/4/22
(Date)

Kristin Walker
(Printed name of traveler)

Kristin P. Walker
(Signature of traveler)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER:

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

4/4/22
(Date)

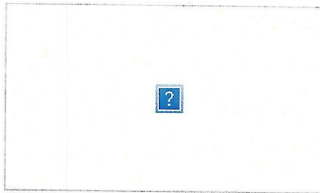
(Revised 1/3/11)

[Signature]
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

Form RE-2

Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 15:38:53 Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: FW: Invitation: Republican Chiefs of Staff & Staff Director's Retreat
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 4:24:22 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Burleson, Alyssa (Lummis)
To: Mortimer, Dominique (Ethics)
CC: Ingham, AnaMarina (Lummis)
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.png, image004.png



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From: James Kimmey <james@senateworkinggroup.org>

2022 Senate Republican
Chiefs of Staff &
Committee Staff Director's
Retreat

**SENATE
WORKING
GROUP.**



Invitation to the 2022 Senate Republican Chiefs of Staff & Committee Staff Director's Retreat

Dear Kristin,

On behalf of Senate Working Group, we would like to cordially invite you and your spouse to the first ever, *Senate Republican Chiefs of Staff & Committee Staff Director's Retreat*. The event will be held **March 24 - 26, 2022 at The Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.**

The retreat is the largest concentration of Republican Senate Chiefs of Staff and Committee Staff Directors outside of Washington, D.C. Bringing together our country's leaders, policy experts, and thought leaders beyond the confines of our nation's capital, this retreat serves to provide an educational deep dive into the issues affecting our country. In addition to the Chiefs of Staff, Staff Directors, and their guests, Senate Working Group members will also attend portions of the retreat.

Senate Working Group is a registered 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational resources to Senate Staff. Founded in 2021, Senate Working Group hosts numerous educational trainings, workshops, and networking events throughout the year, including its signature *Retreat*. Senate Working Group does not employ or hire lobbyists and is funded solely by private and corporate donations.

Step 1: Register for the event!

Senate Working Group will coordinate all logistical arrangements for the retreat, including room reservations, meals, mileage reimbursement, meetings, and other activities during the retreat. Senate Working Group will happily cover the cost of participation for each invitee and their spouse. You are welcome to bring your children, though you will be responsible for the costs of their participation. All reservations must be made through Senate Working Group.

To register, please click the below link and add the corresponding access code when prompted. Once you answer each question within the registration process, you will be sent a confirmation email with additional details, including a calendar invite.

Registration link: <https://www.senateworkinggroup.org/chiefs-committee-member-reg>

Access Code: 2022retreat

Step 2: Submit Ethics Packet by Friday, February 18, 2022!

To comply with Ethics' rules, you will need pre-authorization from the Select Committee on Ethics. By following "Step 1" and registering for the event, you will be sent Senate Working Group's **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form**. Once you receive the form, please submit it along with your completed **Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** form by **Friday, February 18, 2022**.

Failure to submit your form 30 days prior to the event means we will be unable to cover the cost of your attendance and you would need to cover the cost personally. Please note that the 30th day coincides with President's Day Weekend, so please submit your paperwork no later than **Friday, February 18, 2022**.

Additionally, you must file your **Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses** with the Office of Public Records within 30 days of your return – **submit by April 25, 2022**.

Finally, we understand your attendance is pending Ethics' approval. More information on the retreat will be sent to you in the weeks leading up to the event. If you have any questions, concerns, or need additional information, please contact me directly at (858) 336-0293 or james@senateworkinggroup.org.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

James Kimmey
Executive Director
Senate Working Group
(858) 336-0293
www.senateworkinggroup.org

PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors): Senate Working Group, Inc. (SWG)
2. Description of the trip: Senate Chiefs of Staff and Staff Director's Retreat. This event will be a retreat for senior staff to obtain educational resources and connect with policy experts and thought leaders.
3. Dates of travel: March 24 - 26, 2022
4. Place of travel: The Greenbrier Resort - White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia
5. Name and title of Senate invitees: Please see attached document
6. I *certify* that the trip fits one of the following categories:
 - ☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.
 - OR -**
 - ☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) (*see question 9*).
7. ☒ I *certify* that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
 - AND -**
 - ☒ I *certify* that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.
8. I *certify* that:
 - ☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.
 - AND -**
 - ☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).

9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**

I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

- OR -

☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (*see questions 6 and 10*).

- OR -

☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**

If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:

Senate Working Group is the sole sponsor for this event. Senate Working Group has financed and organized this Retreat.

13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:
Please see attached document

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

Senate Working Group is a new organization, created on October 8, 2021. Senate Working Group has not previously sponsored any congressional trips.

15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

Senate Working Group plans to provide educational trainings, as well as host widely attended events, throughout the calendar year. These trainings and events will be offered to all Senate staff, from Chiefs of Staff to Senate Interns.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith estimate	\$275	\$192	\$147	\$227 Facility Rental
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts	Spouse: \$0	Spouse: \$0	Spouse: \$147	Spouse: \$227 Facility Rental

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation **or** b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

This event was arranged and organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

Given that the event is classified as a Retreat, we want the event to be outside of Washington, D.C.

However, to ensure attendance and minimal travel costs, we chose having the event in West Virginia.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

The Greenbrier Resort, 101 W. Main St. White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

We selected the Greenbrier due to its outstanding reputation in hosting similar events and its close proximity to Washington, D.C.

21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel:

Please see attached document

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary:

Mileage reimbursed

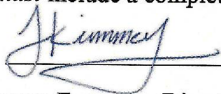
23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event:

None

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (For trips involving more than one sponsor, you *must* include a completed signature page for each additional sponsor):

Signature of Travel Sponsor:



Name and Title: James Kimmey, Executive Director

Name of Organization: Senate Working Group, Inc.

Address: 1825 I Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20006

Telephone Number: (858) 336-0293

Fax Number:

E-mail Address: james@senateworkinggroup.org

Senate Working Group
2022 Senate Republican Chief-of-Staff & Committee Staff Director's Retreat
March 24-26, 2022

Thursday, March 24, 2022

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Weekly Thursday Chiefs & Staff Directors Meeting

The Chiefs and Staff Directors get together for a weekly meeting to discuss the workings within the Senate. Since travel to the Greenbrier will conflict with their weekly meeting, we will be providing a space for the Chiefs and Staff Directors to meet privately before our opening dinner plenary.

Speaker(s): Brent Robertson, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Marshall

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM - Opening Dinner Plenary

This two-hour, opening dinner plenary session will examine the issues that are driving constituents back home and how Senate members can work alongside one another to bring light to these issues. Whether it's the economy or education, Americans are increasingly concerned over the issues that impact them the most. The purpose of this session is to examine those issues and get diverse perspectives from the state and federal level officials.

Speakers: James Kimmey, Executive Director, Senate Working Group
Honorable Glenn Youngkin, Governor, Virginia
Honorable Jim Justice, Governor, West Virginia
Honorable Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader (Kentucky) (Invited)
Honorable Roger Marshall, Senator (Kansas)
Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Senator (West Virginia) (Invited)

8:00PM - 11:00PM - *Optional* - Late Night Reception

Friday, March 25, 2022

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

Senate Ethics: How to (Legally) Help Your Boss in 2022 (45 min)

There are always questions on what can and cannot be done when working in the Senate. The purpose of this session is to break down the senate ethics rules along with an explanation on how to comply with campaign finance regulations while carrying out official Senate duties during the 2022 election cycle.

Speaker(s): Ryan Dollar, Esq., National Republican Senatorial Committee
Honorable Sean Cooksey, Commissioner, Federal Election Commission (Invited)

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Morning Plenary Session**Policy Lighting Round: A Deeper Dive into Kitchen Table Issues (3 hours)**

This three-hour, morning brunch plenary will go deeper into the "kitchen table issues" which were introduced the night prior. Kitchen Table issues are issues that are of concern to the average person that might be discussed by the family around a kitchen table. Featuring policy experts from various prominent think-tanks, we will look into Education, specifically the Critical Race Theory, Immigration, Foreign Policy, specifically U.S. – China relations, and the Economy, specifically the impact of inflation. Each topic will be broken down into 45-minute segments. Each segment will give the speaker 20 - 30 minutes to introduce and discuss the issue, then will leave 15 or more minutes to take questions from the audience.

Speaker(s): Deroy Murdock, Senior Fellow at the London Center for Policy Research
Education and Critical Race Theory
9:00 AM – 9:45AM

 Daniel Garza, The Libre Institute
Immigration
9:45 AM – 10:30 AM

 Michael Sobolik, American Foreign Policy Council
Foreign Policy: U.S. – China Relations
10:30 AM – 11:15 AM

 Dr. Michael Strain, American Enterprise Institute
Inflation and the Economy
11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

12:00PM - 2:00PM – Executive Time**2:00PM – 4:00 PM – Women of the Senate Roundtable (2 hours)**

This session is an opportunity for attendees to meet and discuss the increasing diversity among the Senate's members, and how an increase in female voices will positively impact various pieces of legislation.

Speakers: Liesl Hickey, Ascent Media (moderator)
Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Senator (West Virginia) (Invited)
Honorable Joni Ernst, Senator (Iowa) (Invited)
Honorable Marsha Blackburn, Senator (Tennessee) (Invited)
Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith, Senator (Mississippi) (Invited)

5:00PM - 7:00PM - Reception (2 hours)

The purpose of this reception is for each attendee to network with other attendees and speakers. There will be no speakers for this reception, if announcements need to be made, they will be made by James Kimmey, Executive Director of Senate Working Group.

7:00pm - 10:00PM - Dinner Plenary Session (3 hours)**7:00PM – 7:15PM – welcome remarks by James Kimmey, Senate Working Group****7:15PM – 8:15PM – How the Issues Are Received at Home**

Whether it's the economy, education, voting rights or immigration, there are many legislative issues on the front of many American's minds. The purpose of this session is to examine the key legislative issues that are important to American voters. This session will focus on regional and national trends and how the Senate can influence those issues. Please note that there will be no discussion on campaign-related activity at this seminar.

Speakers: Ryan Munce, co/efficient
Travis Smith, Creative Direct
Chris Grant, Big Dog Strategies

8:15PM – 9:45PM – The Impact of New Media

As #1 political podcast in America, the hosts of The Ruthless Podcast will share their experience utilizing new media to connect with millions of Americans and how it impacted the way people view politics. As former Hill Staffers, they will share their experience both on and off the Hill, and how their podcast impacts the national political conversation.

Speakers: James "Josh" Holmes, The Ruthless Podcast
Michael Duncan, The Ruthless Podcast
Shashank Tripathi, The Ruthless Podcast
John Ashbrook, The Ruthless Podcast

9:45PM – 10:00PM – James Kimmey, Executive Director of Senate Working Group will close out the dinner by giving closing remarks, thanking those in attendance, and provide information on future Senate Working Group events.

Saturday, March 26, 2022**8:30 AM – 9:15 AM****Redistricting 101: The Latest Challenges and How It Impacts the Senate (45 min.)**

The purpose of this 45-minute presentation is to explain the new congressional maps created as a result of the 2020 census. The speaker will explain the various metrics that went into the creation of the maps, i.e.,

makeup of state legislatures, non-partisan commissions, etc., and then show how it will impact the incoming Congress.

Speaker: Honorable Hans von Spakovsky, The Heritage Foundation (Invited)

9:15 AM – 10:45 AM

Senate Committee Staff Director's Update

Each committee Staff Director in attendance will be given 15 to 20 minutes to update each Chief of Staff and fellow Committee Staff Directors on the workings of their specific committee. Transparency and communication is important, the hope is that each senate staff member will leave this session fully aware of each committee's 2022 agenda, planned hearings, and answer any questions their peers may have.

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM

Farewell Remarks

Speaker: James Kimmey, Executive Director, Senate Working Group

Retreat concludes at 11:00 AM

Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form
Attachment

Question 5

In response to question 5, the following individuals are invited:

Honorable Marsha Blackburn, Senator (Tennessee)

Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith, Senator (Mississippi)

Honorable Joni Ernst, Senator (Iowa)

Honorable Roger Marshall, Senator (Kansas)

Honorable Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader (Kentucky)

Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Senator (West Virginia)

Dan Kunsman, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Barrasso

Sean Farrell, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Blackburn

Stacy McBride, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Blunt

Toni-Marie Higgins, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Boozman

Josh Kelley, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Braun

Natasha Hickman, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Burr

James Quinn, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Cassidy

Steve Abbott, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Collins

Beth Jafari, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Cornyn

Doug Coutts, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Cotton

Mark Gruman, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Cramer

Susan Wheeler, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Crapo

Steve Chartan, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Cruz

Jason Thielman, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Daines
Lisa Goeas, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Ernst
Emily Leviner, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Fischer
Richard Perry, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Graham
Aaron Cummings, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Grassley
Adam Telle, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Hagerty
Eric Teetsel, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Hawley
Tony Eberhard, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Hoeven
Doug Davis, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Hyde-Smith
Luke Holland, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Inhofe
Sean Riley, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Johnson
David Stokes, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Kennedy
Michelle Altman, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Lankford
Allyson Bell, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Lee
Brent Robertson, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Marshall
Sharon Soderstrom, Chief-of-Staff, Leader McConnell
Terry Carmack, Chief-of-Staff, Leader McConnell
James Kelly, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Moran
Kaleb Froehlich, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Murkowski
William Henderson, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Paul
Kevin Smith, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Portman
Ryan White, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Risch
Liz Johnson, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Romney

Kyle Chase, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Rounds

Mike Needham, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Rubio

Ray Sass, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Sasse

Craig Carbone, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Rick Scott

Jennifer DeCasper, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Tim Scott

Watson Donald, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Shelby

Larry Barton, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Sullivan

Ryan Nelson, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Thune

Ted Lehman, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Tillis

Dan Brandt, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Toomey

Stephen Boyd, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Tuberville

Michelle Richardson, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Wicker

John Connell, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Young

Neri Martinez, Staff Director, Select Committee on Aging

Fitz Elder, Staff Director, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Shannon Hines, Staff Director, Appropriations Committee

John Wason, Staff Director, Armed Services Committee

Brad Grantz, Staff Director, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Nick Myers, Staff Director, Committee on the Budget

John Keast, Staff Director, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Richard Russell, Staff Director, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Adam Tomlinson, Staff Director, Committee on Environment and Public Works

Gregg Richard, Staff Director, Finance Committee

Arjun Mody, Staff Director, Senate Republican Conference

Chris Socha, Staff Director, Committee on Foreign Relations

David Cleary, Staff Director, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Pam Thiessen, Staff Director, Committee on Homeland Security & Government Affairs

Brian Walsh, Staff Director, Intelligence Committee

Kolan Davis, Staff Director, Judiciary Committee

William Henderson, Staff Director, Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship

Jon Towers, Staff Director, Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Question 13

In response to question 13, Senate Working Group is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational resources to Senate staff. In addition to local trainings and receptions throughout the year, the 2022 Chief-of-Staff and Committee Staff Director's Retreat provides us the ability to connect Senate staff with policy experts and thought leaders in an intimate, off-the-record setting.

Question 16

The estimated per participant lodging and food expense reflected on the form does not include the separate costs Senate Working Group will incur by renting conference space large enough to accommodate an event of this size with appropriate security and audio/visual. Dividing the conference and facility rental costs by the number of participants estimated to attend this event, the estimated figure is \$227 as reflected on the sponsor form.

Question 21

In response to question 21, our daily expenses are in line with the standard/ general West Virginia per diem rates of \$96 per night for lodging, \$59 (M&IE) per day and \$44.25 (75% of total M&IE) for first and last day of travel meals. Greenbrier County follows statewide standard rates, which our lodging and meals expenses are at or below the FY 2022 Per Diem Rates for Zip Code 24986.

CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE, CHAIRMAN
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA, VICE CHAIRMAN

BRIAN SCHATZ, HAWAII
JEANNE SHAHEEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

JAMES E. RISCH, IDAHO
DEB FISCHER, NEBRASKA

SHANNON HAMILTON KOPPLIN, CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR
WILLIAM B. CABLE, CHIEF CLERK

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 220
SECOND AND CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6425

TELEPHONE: (202) 224-2981
FACSIMILE: (202) 224-7416
TDD: (202) 226-3752

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

March 24, 2022

Kristin Walker
Office of Senator Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ms. Walker:

This responds to your recent correspondence requesting approval from the Select Committee on Ethics (the Committee) to accept an invitation you received to travel to the *2022 Senate Republican Chief of Staff and Committee Staff Director's Symposium* in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, on March 24–26, 2022, sponsored by Senate Working Group. Provided that you adhere to the guidance set forth below, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from Senate Working Group in connection with this trip.

Background

Based on your communication with the Committee, the background in this matter is as follows.¹ You are employed as the chief of staff in the Office of Senator Cynthia M. Lummis. Senate Working Group invited you to travel to the *2022 Senate Republican Chief of Staff and Committee Staff Director's Symposium* in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, on March 24–26, 2022. Senate Working Group certified to the Committee that it will pay the necessary expenses² related to the travel and that it is neither a lobbyist, lobbying firm, agent of a foreign principal, or otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government. Senate Working Group has also certified that it does not retain or employ a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal and that no registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal will accompany you at any point throughout your trip.³

Discussion

Privately-sponsored travel includes any gift of travel and travel-related expenses for travel outside the Senate duty station, including transportation, lodging, food and refreshments, and conference fees and materials, whether paid for directly, reimbursed, or provided directly, from a private individual or entity, in connection with a Member's, officer's, or employee's official Senate duties. Incorporating reforms from the Honest Leadership and Open Government

¹ If this letter does not correctly recite the facts, contact the Committee immediately.

² The term "necessary expenses" has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 8.

³ The term "any point throughout your trip" has a specific definition. See *id.* at 2.

Act of 2007 (HLOGA), Pub. L. 110-81 (2007), Senate Rule 35.2 permits Members, officers, and employees to accept privately-sponsored travel only with the prior written approval of the Committee.

The Committee's approval process is governed by the *Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel and Glossary of Terms* (collectively, *Travel Regulations*). The *Travel Regulations* contain detailed requirements regarding who may sponsor travel; time limits for trips; and the type and amount of expenses that can be reimbursed.

Entities that do not retain or employ a lobbyist or foreign agent and all non-profit organizations designated as tax-exempt organizations under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, regardless of whether they retain or employ a lobbyist or foreign agent, may sponsor domestic trips for up to three days. The three-day limitation means three 24-hour periods, calculated from the time of arrival in the trip location to the time of departure from the trip location. For such trips, neither lobbyists nor foreign agents may accompany a Senate invitee at any point throughout the trip, other than in a *de minimis* way.⁴ This means that neither lobbyists nor foreign agents may accompany Senate invitees at any point to and from the event, at the event itself, or at the location being visited.⁵

Under Senate Rule 35, Senate staff must receive advance authorization signed by the Member or officer under whose direct supervision the individual works in order to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary expenses related to fact-finding travel. Further, such authorization and expenses must be disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate by filing the completed *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* and the *Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses* (Form RE-1 and Form RE-2), along with a copy of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form*, and all relevant attachments (e.g., the private sponsor's invitation and itinerary) **within 30 days of the conclusion of Privately-Sponsored Travel.**

Consistent with these standards and Committee precedent, and Senate Working Group's factual representations, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from Senate Working Group in connection with this trip, provided that the actual travel and travel-related expenses conform to the information and materials you provided, and the travel and all required documents are disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate (Office of Public Records).

Finally, Senate Rule 34 requires a reporting individual⁶ on their Financial Disclosure Report, to make an annual disclosure of the receipt of payments or reimbursements under Senate Rule 35 from a private sponsor for officially-related travel expenses where, in the aggregate, travel expenses exceed \$415 from that sponsor during a calendar year. However, if a Member, officer, or employee properly reports the receipt of necessary expenses for such travel to the

⁴ The term "*de minimis*" has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 3.

⁵ See *Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel* at 5; see also *Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 2-3.

⁶ A reporting individual is someone whose salary equals or exceeds 120% of the basic rate of pay for GS-15 (\$135,468 for CY 2022) or is a political fund designee and is required to file Financial Disclosure Reports.

Secretary of the Senate within 30 days of the travel, as discussed above, the travel expenses need not be disclosed a second time on their Financial Disclosure Report.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Hamilton Kopplin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shannon Hamilton Kopplin
Chief Counsel and Staff Director

Enclosure: Travel Checklist